

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION

ACTION TAKEN TO REFORM CALIFORNIA PRISON SYSTEM

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IN SUPPORT THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- September 2005** The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) provided direction to institutions which addressed the issue of overflow housing in Administrative Segregation Units. This direction helped to free up valuable celled housing and reduce crowding.
- October 2005** CDCR signed contract with two community correctional facilities (CCF) (Baker and Leo Chesney) that provided a total of 482 male and female CCF beds. The previous contracts had expired.
- November 2005** CDCR submits proposals to Department of Finance/Governor's Office asking for authority to contract for 8,500 male and female CCF beds.
- December 2005** CDCR signed contract to reopen Mesa Verde CCF which provided 360 male beds (facility had been closed since December 2003).
- January 2006** Governor's Budget proposed 8,500 contracted beds—4,500 for females and 4,000 for males beginning in 2007/08.
- CDCR signed contract with CCF facility (McFarland) which provided 200 male CCF beds. The previous contract had expired.
- Governor's Budget proposed Strategic Growth Plan which would have provided 27,600 beds in county jails dedicated for state prison inmates beginning in 2009/10 and construction of two new prisons adding 9,200 beds.
- NOTE: Based on the projected population growth, the combination of the proposed contracted beds and the beds in the Governor's Strategic Growth Plan would have provided additional state prison capacity through 2019.**

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Provided testimony to Assembly Public Safety Committee on the Governor's Strategic Growth Plan for Public Safety (AB 1833)

February 2006

Inquiry sent to the six current publicly contracted CCF requesting information on immediate availability of additional inmate beds. Response resulted in additional 485 beds available at five of the public facilities.

Provided testimony to Senate Public Safety Committee on the Governor's Strategic Growth Plan for Public Safety (AB 1833)

March 2006

Request for Information (RFI) released to public agencies requesting information on immediate availability of inmate beds in existing city or county facilities or jails. Responses resulted in 200 additional beds available at an existing county jail.

April 2006

Request for Information (RFI) released to private entities on the Department of General Services Contracts Register requesting information to lease any existing, retrofitted, or new construction of facilities/building to house inmates.

Request for Proposal (RFP) released to any public or private entity to contract for 4,000 male offender CCF beds, as proposed by the Governor's January 10 budget.

May 2006

Mandatory bidder's conference for public/private entities contracting for 4,000 male offender CCF beds.

RFI released to any public or private entity to contract for 4,500 female offender CCF beds, as proposed by the Governor's January 10 budget.

June 2006

CDCR provides testimony to Senate Public Safety Committee on AB 2066 (Lieber) which included language to authorize CDCR to contract for 4,500 female CCF beds.

Governor Schwarzenegger announces special session to be held on Prison Overcrowding and Recidivism on June 27.

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- July 2006** RFP released on **July 7** to any public or private entity to contract for 4,500 female offender CCF beds, as proposed by the Governor's January 10 budget.
- Enacted budget provided additional contracting authority to expand the capacity of Leo Chesney CCF by another 60 beds.
- July 10** Staffs of individual Assembly members and key committees are provided an overview of proposals on **July 10** that will be submitted to the Legislature for consideration during the Special Session.
- July 10** Press Briefing conducted on **July 10** Secretary Tilton and Administration officials on the release of the Inmate Population, Rehabilitation and Housing Management Plan and other legislative proposals to be discussed in Special session.
- July 12** Senate Republican Caucus briefed on the plan **July 12**.
- July 14** Briefing on the Reform proposal conducted **July 14** with local elected officials, community groups, and stakeholders.
- July 14** A Request for Proposal is sent nationwide **July 14** to 13,000 local entities for community beds requesting information regarding the availability of existing, renovated or new construction of facilities/buildings for lease, to house male or female adult inmates.
- July 14** Requests for Information (RFI) on out-of-state placement sent **July 14** to more than 6,000 public/private entities and law enforcement agencies nationwide to gauge the extent of interest outside of California. Due mid-August, this RFI will give the CDCR the ability to determine the options California will have with out-of-state placement.
- July 14** Legislative Briefing on the Female Offender Reforms and Community Facilities proposal is conducted **July 14**.
- July 17** Senate and Assembly legislative staffers are briefed on **July 17** a proposal to establish community-based facilities for female inmates.

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- July 20** On **July 20**, CDCR Secretary James Tilton (a) testifies on overcrowding and reform strategies before the Assembly's Select Committee on Prison Overcrowding and Construction.
- July 20** Media representatives are briefed **July 20** via teleconference regarding Female Offender Community Correctional Facilities by Secretary Tilton.
- July 24** Briefing conducted **July 24** for Assembly Republican Caucus regarding proposals that will be submitted to the Legislature during its special session regarding prison overcrowding and reform.
- August 2006** The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation releases cost estimates of the Governor's Prison Reform Package. CDCR briefed legislative staff members followed by briefing members of the media on the costs.
- August 7** Special session of the Legislature begins **August 7** to address the urgent issues of recidivism and overcrowding in California's adult prisons and juvenile facilities.
- August 14** CDCR Secretary James Tilton, joined by authors of legislation, briefs media on Prison Reform Special Session bills.
- August 15** CDCR Secretary James Tilton and executive staff members provides overview of prison population for California State Senate Select Committee on Prison Population Management and Capacity. Overview hearing began at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5066, State Capitol.
- August 16** CDCR Secretary James Tilton and executive staff members provides briefing of Prison Reform proposals to California State Senate Select Committee on Prison Population Management and Capacity. Informational hearing began at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5066, State Capitol.
- August 19** Assemblywoman Nicole Parra (D-30) and CDCR Secretary (A) James Tilton conducted a Town Hall Meeting **August 19** in Delano to discuss the prison reform proposals in the special legislative session regarding efforts to relieve prison overcrowding.

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The discussion included details on the concept of Community Correctional Facilities.

- August 22** Assembly member Sally Lieber conducted an availability on **August 22** to discuss a Special Report by The National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD), "Reducing the Incarceration of Women: Community-Based Alternatives," that supports Governor Schwarzenegger's female offender reform proposals. CDCR Secretary (A) Tilton participated, along with representatives from state and national women's and children's advocacy groups.
- August 23** Request for Information sent to the 58 state counties **August 23** to solicit responses from local agencies on possible locations for community-based, re-entry facilities in California. The re-entry facilities, part of Governor Schwarzenegger's prison reform proposals, will assist inmates and parolees in making a successful transition from prison to their communities.
- August 25** The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) will host tours **August 25** of the Santa Fe Springs Family Foundations Program in Los Angeles County. Wendy Still, Associate Director of CDCR Female Programs, Program Director Angela Knox, and female offenders/residents and program staff will be on hand to answer questions and take reporters through the facility.
- August 29** CDCR Secretary James Tilton issues a press statement on **August 29** on legislative package that would allow the Department to continue on its mid- and long-term goals to add more than 34,000 beds. Secretary Tilton also urges legislators to reconsider short-term relief proposals.
- August 29** CDCR Secretary James Tilton testifies on **August 29** before a joint legislative committee, where legislation is passed and sent to the floor of the Senate for vote.
- August 30** California State Senate on **August 30** passed the prison reformed package, moving the package to the state Assembly.
- August 31** On **August 31** the Assembly fails to act on the prison reform legislation as the legislative session comes to a virtual end.

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- September 1** CDCR Secretary James Tilton issues statement **September 1** expressing his disappointment on the failure of the Legislature to pass any of the prison reform proposals to relieve severe overcrowding in the state's prison system.
- September 4** CDCR issues a survey to inmates on **September 4** seeking volunteers to available beds outside of California. The survey was distributed to approximately 140,000 inmates, 19,501 of which responded that they are interested in volunteering for the transfer.
- September 2006** Four teams of CDCR officials traveled to nine states to inspect facilities that had the potential to immediately house California inmates. CDCR also surveyed other state Department of Corrections in search of additional facilities and to inform them of California's plans for transferring inmates.
- September 2006** CDCR meets with stakeholders to inform them of the Department's plans to transfer inmates out of state. Those stakeholders included the court-appointed receiver who oversees the prison system's medical programs, the Special Master who oversees the mental health programs, the California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA), the Prison Law Office and legislative leaders.
- September 27** As of **September 27**, CDCR had received letters of intent from correctional facilities with beds in nine states representing a total of 4,700 potential beds. CDCR begins development of a classification process to best match inmates with available facilities.
- October 4** Governor Schwarzenegger issues an emergency proclamation on **October 4** citing severe overcrowding as a threat to health and safety in 29 of the State's 33 prisons. The emergency proclamation allows Corrections officials to immediately contract with out-of-state correctional facilities to temporarily house California inmates. The Proclamation gives CDCR authority to enter into long-term contracts with out of state correctional facilities to temporarily house California inmates.
- October 10-20** CDCR staff is sent in teams to prisons statewide between **October 10** and **October 20** to interview inmates in person who have expressed interest in transferring out-of-state. This process

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including review of inmate files, including medical records to ensure only appropriate inmates are considered for transfer.

October 20

CDCR enters into two separate contracts with out-of-state correctional facilities to house up to 2,260 California inmates. The two contracts are with *The GEO Group Inc.* and *Correctional Corporation of America (CCA)* which agree to provide bed space in Indiana, Tennessee, Arizona and Oklahoma correctional facilities.

November 3

Judges in federal and state court reject efforts to block CDCR's efforts to transfer inmates out-of-state on **November 3**. The separate rulings were against requests for temporary restraining orders filed by the California Correctional Peace Officer's Association and the Service Employees International Union, including inmate advocates, who claimed the transfers violated the state constitution because they did not follow the state's civil service system and contracting procedures.

October 4

Governor Schwarzenegger issues an emergency proclamation for California's prison system allowing Corrections officials to immediately contract with out-of-state correctional facilities to temporarily house California inmates.

November 4

A motion to block the transfer of inmates out of California was denied **November 4** by U.S. District Court Judge Lawrence Karlton. The motion, filed by attorneys for mental health Special Master Michael Keeting, said CDCR did not properly screen inmates for mental health issues before selecting them for the transfer.

November 4

CDCR successfully transfers 80 inmates on **November 4** to a secure correctional facility in West Tennessee operated by Corrections Corporation of America. The inmates departed by airplane from Meadows Field in Bakersfield.

December 20

CDCR transfers 38 inmates to a correctional facility in Arizona, which is the second group of California inmates to be relocated to an out-of-state institution. This action will be followed over the next six weeks by approximately 520 more inmates who will be transported to the same facility.

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December 21	Governor Schwarzenegger unveils a comprehensive prison reform proposal including a \$10.6 billion bond financing package (and \$0.3 billion from the General Fund) to increase the State's prison and jail capacity by a total of 78,000 beds.
December 22	CDCR transfers 38 inmates to a correctional facility in Arizona.
December 27	CDCR transfers 38 inmates to a correctional facility in Arizona.
December 29	CDCR transfers 36 inmates to a correctional facility in Arizona.
January 4	CDCR transfers 10 inmates to a correctional facility in Arizona.
January 12	CDCR transfers 38 inmates to a correctional facility in Arizona.
January 18	CDCR transfers 37 inmates to a correctional facility in Arizona.
January 26	CDCR transfers 38 inmates to a correctional facility in Arizona.
February 1	CDCR transfers 7 inmates to a correctional facility in Arizona.